

VZCZCXRO7382
OO RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHIHL RUEHKUK RUEHTRO
DE RUEHKO #2028 2452138
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 022138Z SEP 09
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5945
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL IMMEDIATE
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE 0385

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 002028

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/02/2019
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [UNSC](#) [IZ](#) [SY](#) [JA](#)
SUBJECT: IRAQI CHARGE URGES AUGUST 19 BOMBING INVESTIGATION

REF: A. BAGHDAD 2319
[1](#)B. BAGHDAD 2304

Classified By: DCM James P. Zumwalt per reasons 1.4(b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (C) During a September 2 meeting with Embassy Poloff, Iraqi Embassy Charge William Odisho strongly urged the creation of a UN Security Council-sanctioned commission -- similar to the UN International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIIC) in Lebanon -- to investigate the August 19 Baghdad bombing. Consistent with reftel reporting, Odisho said that the "evidence was there" that would help identify the perpetrators. He also asserted the involvement of Syria, noting that it was a safe haven for unrepentant "Saddamists," stressing that an international tribunal was the only way to effectively deal with the August 19 attack. Odisho said he had not yet mentioned the proposal to the GOJ but would soon.

[1](#)2. (C) BIO NOTE: William I. Odisho is the current Iraqi Charge a.i., following the departure of the previous Ambassador Ghanim Al-Jumaily this past spring. Odisho is nearing the conclusion of a nearly five-year assignment to Japan. A former Iraqi army officer and a veterinarian by training, Odisho said he became active in the anti-Saddam opposition around the time of the 1991 Gulf War. A long-time exile and resident of Virginia while in exile, Odisho earned a degree in political science while in Japan and speaks English well. Odisho was unsure about when a new Ambassador might arrive, owing to the damage and fatalities at MFA caused by the August 19 bombing.
ROOS